

OFFICIAL JOURNAL of the 15th Session
of the

GULF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Methodist
Episcopal Church**

Held at
Hughes Springs, Texas, Nov. 29-Dec. 2, 1917

VOLUME V. NUMBER 2.



Bishop W. P. Thirkield, D. D., LL. D.
New Orleans, La.

James W. Hervey, Secretary
Welsh, La.

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Contents.

- 4. II officers of Conf.
- 4. III Conf. Bds. 1918
- 5. IV Conf. Com.
- 6. V Disciplinary Ques,
- 9. VI Appointments
- 11. VII Daily Proceedings
- 21. VIII Report D.S.

Conference & Chronology.

II. OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE.

Presiding Bishop

WILBUR P. THIRKIELD, D. D., LL. D., New Orleans, La.

Secretary

JAMES W. HERVEY.....Welsh, La.

Assistant Secretary

R. R. ELLIS.....Elton, La.

Statistician

E. N. HARDIN.....Kinder, La.

Assistant Statisticians

R. L. WELDON.....Ebenezer, La.

K. C. MINTER.....Woodville, Texas

Treasurer

F. J. ENSIGN.....La Porte, Texas

Assistant Treasurers

W. H. GERMANY.....Houston, Texas

O. J. ACKERMAN.....Lyford, Texas

Conference Post Master

GEO. L. HARPER.....Pearland, Texas

III. CONFERENCE BOARDS—1918.

District Board of Home Missions and Church Extension,

Southern District: F. W. Loy, R. L. Weldon, J. W. Hervey,

C. V. Palmer, J. A. Carruth.

Texas District: L. E. Gower, W. H. Germany, Dr. J.

W. Vogan, H. H. Jones, F. J. Ensign.

District Epworth League Presidents.

R. L. Weldon and R. T. Pynes.

Conference Commission on Finance.

T. J. Shrode, R. T. Pynes, E. C. Willard.

Board of Home Missions and Church Extension.

G. B. Hines, Pastors at Welsh, Jennings, and Ebenezer, the

District Superintendents, Mrs. D. A. Kelly, G. B.

Woolman, E. C. Willard, S. H. Yockey, H. C.

Marshall, J. A. Carruth, P. W. Kiplinger.

Board of Foreign Missions.

O. B. Morris, Haughton K. Faulk, T. J. Shrode, H. C.

Leonard, R. R. Ellis.

Board of Conference Stewards.

To serve one year: R. L. Weldon, T. J. Shrode, G. B. Hines.

To serve two years: J. W. Hervey, R. T. Pynes, J. A. Carruth.

To serve three years: R. R. Ellis, F. J. Ensign, H. C. Leonard.

District Sunday School Board.

The District Superintendents, C. V. Palmer, J. C. Abel, C. A.

Perkins, E. N. Hardin, Haughton K. Faulk, J. J. Miller

Visitors to Port Arthur College.

H. C. Leonard, E. N. Hardin, W. H. Germany.

Triers of Appeals.

R. L. Weldon, A. J. Price, G. B. Hines, R. G. Swanson, C. A.

Perkins, Reserves: H. C. Leonard, O. B. Morris.

Board of Examiners.

Haughton K. Faulk, W. H. Germany, R. L. Weldon, J. W.

Hervey, T. E. Webb, O. B. Morris, H. C. Leonard,

T. J. Shrode, F. J. Ensign.

IV. CONFERENCE COMMITTEES—1917-1918.

(a) Standing

Foreign Missions.

O. B. Morris, R. T. Pynes, R. G. Swanson.

Episcopal Fund.

The District Superintendents.

Conference Relations.

J. W. Hervey, R. L. Weldon, T. E. Webb.

General Qualifications.

H. C. Leonard, T. E. Webb, O. B. Morris.

Auditing Accounts.

H. K. Faulk, E. N. Hardin, W. R. Newton.

Public Worship.

Pastor and District Superintendent.

Resolutions.

O. B. Morris, H. C. Leonard, H. K. Faulk.

Memoirs.

N. L. Sayers, J. W. Lively, C. A. Perkins.

Sabbath Observance.

G. L. Harper, R. G. Swanson, P. E. Vaughan.

Sunday Schools.

W. T. Stokes, H. C. Leonard, H. K. Faulk.

State of the Church.

R. T. Pynes, C. A. Perkins.

Temperance.

S. H. Yockey, W. T. Stokes.

American Bible Society.

R. R. Ellis, Julian Woodson, E. N. Hardin.

Book Concern and Periodicals.

H. C. Leonard, J. W. Hervey, C. A. Perkins.

Home Missions and Church Extension.

W. H. Germany, E. N. Hardin, F. J. Ensign.

Education.

H. K. Faulk, A. J. Price, H. C. Leonard, T. E. Webb

G. L. Harper.

Freedmen's Aid Society.

R. T. Pynes, R. L. Weldon, S. H. Yockey.

Epworth League.

F. J. Ensign, R. L. Weldon, R. T. Pynes.

(b) SPECIAL COMMITTEES

On Union Conferences.

F. W. Loy, L. E. Gower, T. E. Webb.

V. DISCIPLINARY QUESTIONS.

1. Is this Annual Conference Incorporated according to the requirements of the Discipline?

It is.

2. Who have been received by transfer, and from what Conferences?

Philipp Deschner, Oregon.

3. Who have been readmitted?

NONE.

4. Who have been received on Credentials, and from what Churches?

Joseph Sanna-Ser, United Presbyterian church.

5. Who have been received on trial?

(a) In studies of the First year?

NONE.

(b) In studies of Third year under Seminary rule?

6. Who have been continued on trial?

(a) In studies of First year?

P. E. Vaughan.

(b) In studies of Second year?

K. C. Minter, Jas. B. Kenna, A. M. Wynne.

(c) In studies of Third year?

NONE.

(d) In studies of Fourth year?

NONE.

7. Who have been discontinued?

Madison A. Farr, C. H. Monroe, Enzo Stasio, W. I.

Gates.

8. Who have been admitted into full membership?

NONE.

9. What members are in studies of Third year?

NONE.

10. What members are in studies of Fourth year?

James D. Pointer.

11. What members have completed the Conference

Course of Study?

(a) Elected and ordained Elder this year?

Philipp Deschner.

12. What others have been elected and ordained

Deacons?

NONE.

13. What others have been elected and ordained El-

ders?

NONE.

14. Was the character of each preacher examined?

This was strictly done in open Conference as the name of each brother was called.

15. Who have been transferred, and to what Conferences?

F. M. Simpson, Oklahoma; E. D. Smith, Rock River.

16. Who have died?

NONE.

17. Who have been located at their own request?

NONE.

18. Who have been located?

NONE.

19. Who have withdrawn?

NONE.

20. Who have been permitted to withdraw under charges or complaints?

NONE.

21. Who have been expelled?

NONE.

22. What other personal notation should be made?

G. B. Hines was granted a year's leave of absence.

23. Who are the Supernumerary Ministers, and for what number of years consecutively each held this relation?

NONE.

Who are the Retired Ministers?

J. W. Lively, N. H. Oliver, N. L. Sayers, F. D. Van Valkenberg, Julian Woodson.

25. Who are the Triers of Appeals?

R. L. Weldon, A. J. Price, G. B. Hines, R. G. Swanson, C. A. Perkins. Reserves: H. C. Leonard, O. B. Morris.

26. What is the annual report of the Conference Board of Home Missions and Church Extension?

(See report.)

27. What is the annual report of the Conference Board of Foreign Missions?

No report.

28. What is the Statistical Report?

(See report.)

29. What is the Conference Treasurer's Report?

(See report.)

30. (a) What is the aggregate of the Benevolent Collections ordered by the General Conference, as reported by the Conference Treasurer? \$4,156.

(b) What is the aggregate of the Benevolent Collections ordered by the Annual Conference, as reported by the Treasurer? \$705.

31. What are the Claims on the Conference Funds? \$2,037.

32. What has been received on these claims?

From the Book Concern, \$367; from Annual Conference Investments, \$53; from the Chartered Fund —; from Board of Conference Claimants. \$414; from Pastoral Charges, \$504; total, \$1,338.

(b) How has this money been applied?

(See report of Conference Stewards.)

33. What amount has been apportioned to the pastoral charges within the Conference, to be raised for the support of Conference Claimants? \$600.

34. What amount has been paid by the Conference Treasurer to the Board of Conference Claimants for Connectional Relief? \$62.

35. Where are the Preachers Stationed?

(See List of Appointments.)

36. Where shall the next Conference be held?

Place of meeting to be chosen by Cabinet.

VI. APPOINTMENTS.

Southern District. \$200.

5	F. W. LOY, District Superintendent, Lake Charles, La.	
1	Auturn and Smithdale—R. G. Swanson.....	\$ 200
2	Bayou Chene—W. R. Newton.....	240
3	Crowley—To be supplied.....	200
4	DeRidder and Florine—To be supplied.....	200
5	DeQuincy—A. M. Wynne.....	160
6	Dry Prong—To be supplied.....	160
7	Ebennezer—R. L. Weldon.....	235
8	Elton and Raymond—R. R. Ellis.....	100
9	Gloster—(Delos H. Cassels).....	100
10	Hammond—To be supplied.....	100
11	Hico—(Q. L. Bennett).....	50
12	Iowa—S. H. Yockey.....	150
13	Jennings—T. E. Webb.....	
14	Kinder and Basile—E. N. Hardin.....	200
15	Lake Charles—Supplied temporarily.....	
16	Loranger—T. J. Shrode.....	
17	Lutcher—Haughton K. Faulk.....	
18	Marthaville—(Charles Richardson).....	150
19	New Orleans; First Italian—Joseph Sanna-Ser.....	900
20	Port Arthur—O. B. Morris.....	
21	Welsh—J. W. Hervey.....	

French Mission.

J. A. CARRUTH, Superintendent, Lake Charles, La....	\$ 300
Gueydan—To be supplied.....	250

Sweet Lake—To be supplied.....	250
Edna and Cameron—(W. B. Hebert).....	200
Bell City and Thornwell—To be supplied.....	

Texas District.

5	LEWIS E. GOWER, District Superintendent, Houston, Texas	\$ 400
6	Alvin—(H. S. Alkire).....	
3.	Atlanta and Jefferson—Guy W. Holmes.....	150
	Austin; Hyde Park.....	
1	Deadwood and Bethel—(A. K. Casey).....	50
	Houston:	
	College Heights—(T. M. Ransom).....	
	Houston Heights—W. H. Germany.....	
350	Hughes Springs and Winnsboro—W. E. Harrison.....	100
	La Porte—F. J. Ensign.....	150
1	Lufkin Circuit—(C. H. La Grone).....	100
	Lyford—(O. J. Ackerman).....	100
	Marshall—R. T. Pynes.....	
2	Noonday and Harleton—To be supplied.....	100
	Ore City Circuit—To be supplied.....	100
	Pearland—Geo. L. Harper.....	100
	Polk Circuit—(W. C. Mann).....	150
150	Rock Hill—(C. T. Miller).....	100
	Sabine Circuit—C. A. Perkins and (T. H. Fletcher)...	375
	San Antonio:	
730	Trinity—H. C. Leonard.....	
	Williams Chapel—Phillip Deschner.....	
3	Shelbyville and Center—(J. M. Kenna).....	100
1.60	South Houston and Aldine—(T. M. Ransom).....	100
	Texas City and Arcadia—W. T. Stokes.....	200
	Woodville Circuit—K. C. Minter.....	125

NOTE: The figures at the right are the Missionary appropriations.

Special Appointments.

- 10 Arthur J. Price, President Port Arthur College.
 James D. Pointer, Missionary in Portuguese East Africa.
 James B. Kenna, left without appointment to attend school.
 J. W. Lively, Julian Woodson, F. D. Van Valkenburg, N. L. Sayers, and N. H. Oliver, our honored veterans.

VII. DAILY PROCEEDINGS.

FIRST DAY.

Hughes Springs, Texas, Nov. 29, 1917.

Opening.

The Gulf Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church assembled for its 15th annual session, Thursday morning, November 29, 1917 at Hughes Springs, Texas. At 8:30 o'clock Bishop W. P. Thirkield called the Conference to order and Hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy," was sung, the Apostles' Creed was recited and "Are we yet alive?" was sung, followed by prayer by the Bishop. The Holy Communion was administered by the Bishop assisted by the District Superintendents and the resident Pastor. The Bishop's message was on the duty of a Methodist preacher at the Annual Conference. On this bright Thanksgiving morning our hearts were directed to a high spirit of devotion and thankfulness.

Organization.

The Bishop called the Conference to order and asked the Secretary of the last session to call the roll. Twenty-five members and probationers answered present.

The following officers were elected: J. W. Hervey, Secretary; R. R. Ellis, Assistant Secretary; E. N. Hardin, Statistician; R. L. Weldon and K. C. Minter, Assistants; F. J. Ensign, Treasurer; W. H. Germany and O. J. Ackerman, Assistants; G. L. Harper, Conf. Post Master; F. W. Loy, Reporter for the Press.

The Bar of the Conference was fixed to include the first five pews.

On motion the time for opening was fixed at 8:30 a. m., and the time for adjournment at 12:00 noon.

Question fourteen was called, and the following District Superintendents were called, their characters passed, and they reported their districts. Their reports showed progress in the work of the Conference during the year.

Question of Privilege.

When District Superintendent J. A. Carruth finished reading his report, which was for his sixth year, T. E. Webb rose to a question of high privilege and with a few words

on behalf of the pastors of the Southern District, presented him with a purse of \$25. "Blest be the Tie that Binds," was sung.

The Bishop announced that the action of the joint commission on boundaries, representing the Gulf and Southern German Conferences, changed the line between the two Conferences so as to include St. Charles Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, New Orleans, within the bounds of the Southern German Conference. This old historic church was sold and another church was purchased on Napoleon Avenue where Franklin Street Methodist Episcopal Church and Napoleon Avenue, which is the successor to St. Charles Avenue Church will unite in building a large church for a more aggressive work for our Methodism in the city of New Orleans.

On motion of O. B. Morris the Secretary was authorized to send a message of sympathy to Brother Gates who sustained permanent injuries in a wreck last June.

The Bishop announced that Brothers Shrode and Leonard were detained at their work on account of necessary pastoral duties and were therefore excused from attendance at the Conference.

Question fourteen was resumed and the effective Elders of the New Orleans District were called, characters passed and they reported their charges: R. G. Swanson, H. K. Faulk.

The effective Elders of the Southern District were called, their characters were passed and they reported their work as follows: W. R. Newton, R. L. Weldon, R. R. Ellis, S. H. Yockey, F. J. Ensign, E. N. Hardin, G. B. Hines, T. E. Webb, O. B. Morris, J. W. Hervey.

On motion of J. A. Carruth, G. B. Hines was granted a year's leave of absence.

The effective Elders of the Texas District were called, their characters were passed and they reported their work: G. L. Harper, T. J. Shrode, W. H. Germany, W. T. Stokes. At this time the call was interrupted by the arrival of the time to adjourn for noon.

The Bishop announced the receipt of a draft from the Board Conference Claimants amounting to \$414.

J. A. Carruth reported \$53.36 interest from the Perma-

ment Fund which was ordered paid to the Treasurer of the Conference Board of Stewards.

An afternoon session was ordered and announced for 2:00 o'clock.

Adjourned by expiration of time.

AFTERNOON SESSION—FIRST DAY.

At 2 o'clock the Bishop called the Conference to order. "A Charge to keep I have," was sung and Brother Weldon offered prayer.

Question fourteen was resumed and the remaining effective Elders of the Texas District were called, their characters passed and they reported their charges: C. A. Perkins, A. J. Price, W. E. Harrison, R. T. Pynes, H. C. Leonard.

On motion of L. E. Gower, H. C. Leonard was excused from attendance upon the Conference session.

Arthur J. Price made his report as President of Port Arthur College. This report showed the School to be in better condition than ever in its history. The Bishop appealed to every pastor to stand by President Price and the College more loyally than ever and the Conference pledged their most hearty support.

Question 24. Who are the Retired Ministers? The following were called, their characters were passed and those present made a few touching remarks: J. W. Lively, Julian Woodson, N. L. Sayers, N. H. Oliver, F. D. Van Valkenburg.

The Bishop announced the transfer of F. M. Simpson to the Oklahoma Conference and E. D. Smith to the Rock River Conference. He also announced the transfer of Philipp Deschner from the Oregon Conference to the Gulf Conference.

The Secretary called the roll of charges and the pastors handed in their reports to the Treasurer and Statistician.

L. E. Gower read the list of standing committees. (See list).

Adjourned.

SECOND DAY, FRIDAY, Nov. 30, 1917.

At 8:30 the Bishop called the Conference to order and Hymn, "What a Friend we have in Jesus" was sung, followed with prayer by the Bishop. Then Hymn, "From every

Stormy wind that Blows" was sung. The Bishop's address on the "Ministry of Prayer" was a very gracious and helpful deliverance.

The Journal of the first day's session was read and approved.

Question one. Is this Annual Conference incorporated according to the requirements of the Discipline? Yes.

Question 3. Who have been Re-admitted? None.

Question 4. Who have been received on Credentials and from what churches? Joseph Sanna-Ser from the United Presbyterian church. He was received on his Credentials and recognized as a Deacon.

Question 5. Who have been received on trial? None.

Question 6. Who have been continued on trial?

(a) In studies of first year? P. E. Vaughan.

(b) In studies of second year? On motion of L. E. Gower, K. C. Minter's character was passed, he reported his work and was advanced to the studies of the second year. Likewise the character of Guy W. Holmes was passed, he reported his work, and was advanced to the studies of the second year.

On motion of J. A. Carruth the character of J. B. Kenna was passed, he was continued in the studies of the second year, and left without appointment to attend school.

On motion of J. A. Carruth the character of A. M. Wynne was passed, he reported his work and was continued in studies of second year.

Question 7. Who have been discontinued? M. A. Farr, C. H. Monroe, Enzo Stasio.

At this point Dr. J. W. Lively reported his work for the year and related some interesting reminiscences.

Question 8. Who have been admitted into full membership? None.

Question 9. What members are in the studies of the third year? None.

Question 10. What members are in the studies of the fourth year? James D. Pointer's character was passed and he was continued in the studies of the fourth year. Brother Pointer is our missionary in Africa.

On motion the Secretary was authorized to send Brother

Pointer the greetings of the Conference.

Question 11. What members have completed the Conference Course of Study? None.

Question 12. What others have been elected and ordained Deacons? None.

Question 13. What others have been elected and ordained Elders? None.

Question 15. Who have been transferred, and to what Conferences? F. M. Simpson, Oklahoma; E. D. Smith, Rock River.

Question 16. Who have died? None.

Question 17. Who have located at their own request? None.

Question 18. Who have been located? None.

Question 19. Who have withdrawn? None.

Question 20. Who have been permitted to withdraw under charges or complaints? None.

Question 21. Who have been expelled? None.

Question 22. What other personal notation should be made? G. B. Hines was granted a year's leave of absence.

Question 23. Who are the supernumerary ministers? None.

Question 25. Who are the triers of appeals? R. L. Weldon, A. J. Price, G. B. Hines, R. G. Swanson, C. A. Perkins. Reserves: H. C. Leonard and O. B. Morris.

The Bishop announced the dividend from the Book Concern to be \$367, and it was ordered paid to the Conference Treasurer.

The Statistician read the list of charges whose reports had not been received.

The Bishop ruled in the case of Union Sunday Schools, that where we have pupils in them we should report them and a school. This ruling is based on the status of affiliated churches.

The Bishop spoke of the Asbury Memorial to be erected in the city of Washington, D. C. On motion of J. W. Hervey the sum of \$55 apportioned to this Conference for the memorial was accepted. The District Superintendents will apportion the \$55 out to the charges.

N. L. Sayers made his report as Corresponding Secretary

of the Gulf Conference Claimants Permanent Fund and outlined a program for a concerted campaign. On motion of J. A. Carruth this paper was referred to the Board of Stewards for consideration and it was made the order of the day Saturday morning after the reading of the Journal.

Introductions.

Mr. F. A. Day representing the Methodist Book Concern of Kansas City was introduced and spoke briefly. Rev. G. K. Williams, pastor of the local Baptist church, Rev. S. G. Jones, Field Agent Conference Annuity Fund, Alabama Conference, Rev. C. T. Miller, local preacher, Alabama Conference, and Mrs. A. M. Wynne were introduced to the Conference.

Bishop Thirkfield made a very enthusiastic speech on the importance of buying and reading good books.

J. W. Hervey read the report of the joint commission on boundary which met in New Orleans, October 5, 1917. It was adopted.

F. W. Loy moved that a commission be appointed by the Bishop to take the necessary steps to bring about the contemplated union of the Southern German and Gulf Conferences and to promote the same. The motion prevailed.

The Secretary read his financial report as Secretary and it was accepted.

On motion of J. A. Carruth the amount of \$24.45 left in the hands of the Conference Treasurer last year was added to the Conference Claimants Permanent Fund.

On motion of A. J. Price the Conference re-affirmed the names of the Conference Board of Trustees. (See Board.)

On motion A. J. Price was elected Chairman and J. A. Carruth Treasurer of the Board of Conference Trustees.

The Secretary read a communication from Brother Van Valkenburg and on motion his quarterly Conference membership was placed at Loranger, La.

The Bishop read some verses from the 37th Psalm and made some very helpful comments which were appreciated by the Conference.

Announcements were made by W. T. Stokes, the Gloria was sung, and the Benediction was pronounced by Brother Woodson.

THIRD DAY, SATURDAY, Dec. 1, 1917.

The Bishop called the Conference to order at 8:30. Hymn, "My Soul be on thy guard," was sung and prayer was offered by Brother Deschner. Hymn, "My Jesus as Thou Wilt" was sung after which the Bishop read from the first chapter of II Peter and gave a very helpful and inspiring exposition.

The journal of the second day was read and approved.

The Bishop appointed F. W. Loy, L. E. Gower and T. E. Webb on the Commission on Union of Southern German and Gulf Conferences.

The Bishop announced the Conference Board of Examiners for the ensuing year. (See Board.)
Introductions.

Dr. A. G. Kinnett of the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension was introduced and spoke of the work of the Board.

Dr. Williams of the Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals was introduced and addressed the Conference.

The Bishop made a ringing appeal to the Preachers to buy and read good books. A recess of ten minutes was given for the people to buy books.

The Conference Board of Stewards reported relative to the Conference Claimants Permanent Fund, and on motion the report was referred back to the Board of Stewards.

Question 11 was taken up again and on motion of L. E. Gower, Philipp Deschner was elected to Elders Orders.

The Secretary of the Cabinet read the list of Conference Boards for the ensuing year. (See list.)

On motion of the Secretary the journal when printed was made the official record of the Conference.

Two large U. S. flags were brought into the church and the Conference rose and sang "My Country 'tis of Thee."

Mrs. R. A. Lewis was introduced and she gave a splendid reading on "Changed Crosses," which was appreciated by the Conference.

The matter of the accident of Brother Gates was reported by his District Superintendent, L. E. Gower, and the Secretary read a letter from him. On motion of A. J. Price an

offering was taken for Brother Gates amounting to about \$200.

On motion of R. T. Pynes an offering of books was taken for Thomas H. Fletcher who had lost his parsonage and effects by fire.

Julian Woodson read the report of the Committee on the American Bible Society which was adopted.

On motion the apportionment of the Missionary money was left with the Cabinet for adjustment.

The Conference Treasurer read his report. (See report.)

On motion of A. J. Price the 80 per cent of the collection for Education was ordered paid to Port Arthur College.

The report of the Committee on Education was read by H. K. Faulk and it was adopted.

On motion of President Price the conference ordered the Secretary to send greetings to Dr. J. W. Hancher of the Board of Education.

The Conference authorized A. J. Price to send greetings to Mrs. Delora R. Gates.

Question 36. Where shall the next Conference be held? On motion of F. W. Loy the Cabinet was made a committee to select the place of meeting.

The following reports were read and adopted: (See reports), Foreign Missions, Epworth League, Sunday Schools, Resolutions, State of the Church, Auditing Accounts, Temperance, Memoirs.

The following were appointed on the committee to investigate matters concerning the accident of Brother Gates: L. E. Gower, W. H. Germany, and A. J. Price.

Introduction.

Dr. Harry Farmer of the Board of Foreign Missions was introduced and addressed the Conference.

The Conference ordered an afternoon session to be held at 5:00 o'clock. Announcements were made and the Conference adjourned with the Benediction by the Bishop.

AFTERNOON SESSION, Saturday, Dec. 1, 1917.

The Bishop called the Conference to order at 5:00 p. m., and Hymn, "My Faith looks up to Thee" was sung. The Bishop offered prayer. Journal of morning session read and approved.

A message from Dr. C. B. Spencer, editor of the Central, was read and the Conference authorized the Secretary to send him our greetings.

Question 31 was asked and the Secretary read the report of the Conference Board of Stewards which was adopted. (See report.)

The amount of \$64 for the Board of Conference Claimants was apportioned to the Conference and accepted. The sum of \$600 was voted to be apportioned to the charges and raised by them for the support of our Conference Claimants next year.

L. E. Gower read a letter from Mrs. W. I. Gates and made a motion that a committee be appointed by the Bishop to draft a letter to the proper authorities asking for the relief of Brother Gates' son from the army in order that he may be able to support his father and family. The motion prevailed and L. E. Gower and J. W. Hervey were appointed.

The matter of Conference Journal Fund was taken up and some money received.

Question 28. What is the Statistical Report? (See report.)

On motion of J. W. Hervey the pastors were requested to be present the day before Conference opens next year in order to hand in their reports to the Statistician and Treasurer.

Dr. Lively reported \$30 received from the sale of an abandoned piece of church property and it was ordered paid to the Treasurer of the Permanent Fund.

On motion N. L. Sayers and the District Superintendent were given authority to sell certain abandoned church property situated at Marenguin Bayou and at Livonia.

On motion of J. A. Carruth an amendment was added to the second section or article of the Gulf Conference Charter so as to include the campaign and work of raising money for the Permanent Fund for Conference Claimants.

The Secretary read the report of the Board of Stewards relative to the Permanent Fund and it was adopted and referred to the Cabinet. The Conference voted to raise \$25,000 in ten years for a Permanent Fund for our Conference

Claimants.

The Conference authorized Brother Sayers to turn over the \$133 which he had collected during the year to the Treasurer of the Conference Trustees.

The report on Sabbath Observance was adopted.

On motion the Conference adjourned, pending the Ordination service and the reading of the appointments on Sunday. Benediction by Bishop.

SUNDAY SERVICES, Dec. 2, 1917.

Rev. N. L. Sayers held a well attended and very helpful Love Feast Sunday morning at 9:30.

At 10:30 Bishop Thirkield ordained Philipp Deschner an Elder, he having been elected to this order.

The Bishop preached a powerful sermon at 11 o'clock from the subject, "The Power of the Gospel of Christ." The large church was filled to capacity and the response was excellent. At the conclusion of the sermon the Bishop dedicated the new church free of debt.

At 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon the appointments were read followed by an address by Dr. Harry Farmer of the Board of Foreign Missions.

At the evening service Rev. Philipp Deschner and Rev. W. H. Germany gave graphic pictures of the work among the soldiers in the camps at San Antonio and Houston respectively. A large congregation was present and much interest manifested. This service closed a very blessed and beneficial session of our Gulf Conference. It was at this place 14 years ago that the Annual Conference was promoted from the Gulf Mission Conference.

OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE.

This is to certify that the foregoing is the official record of the fifteenth annual session of the Gulf Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

JAMES W. HERVEY,
Secretary.

W. P. THIRKIELD,
Bishop.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT.

New Orleans District.

The year on the New Orleans District has been characterized by service, development and change. Our wish has been to impress upon the pastors and people careful and constant attention to the things which make for righteousness at home and abroad. We have sought to inspire greater fervency and zeal in the Master's service, but zeal always according to knowledge. New fields have been opened for Sunday School work and preaching. In the district are a number of local preachers and devoted laymen who are ever busy teaching and preaching the Word in needy and neglected places. And in some instances "the parched land has become a pool."

I believe that every pastor should become a missionary, enlarging the borders of the Kingdom throughout the Southland. The pastors have been faithful and have stood loyally at their posts. My relation with them has been cordial and brotherly and our fellowship sweet.

Auburn has had a good year. Reports are better than last year. Johnston's Chapel church has been repaired and painted. Smithdale contemplates a change of location. The pastor, Brother Swanson, has been a true minister of the Word, and souls have been quickened. R. A. LeMaster has served Gloster most of the year. A number have united with the church. The old church building, built before the division in 44, and that has always been a Methodist Episcopal Church, is to be remodeled. Bishop Thirkield spent a recent Sunday with this church, and after an inspiring sermon, raised over \$500 for church improvement.

Hammond has made but little progress. M. E. Bramhall has been on the field; and by his Christian character, courtliness and kindness has won the respect and good will of all. We have at this place and at Natalbany a few members, loyal and liberal.

Loranger is in fine shape. Practically out of debt and with a good and growing constituency her future is assured. T. J. Shrode became pastor there about the first of June. He held a good revival with 21 old fashioned conversions.

The finances are well in hand, the people hopeful, the pastor contented and happy. Brother Shrode is master of the situation.

Haughton K. Faulk has ministered to the people at Lutchter most acceptably. He is a workman that needeth not to be ashamed. By his pastoral care, earnest preaching and exemplary life he has endeared himself to all. Such a minister of the Gospel is worth \$10,000 a year to any community.

The year in New Orleans has witnessed many changes and marks of progress. In May Joseph Sanna-Ser, with his estimable family, came to New Orleans and at once took charge of our Cheisa Del Redentore or First Italian church. Brother Sanna comes to us from the United Presbyterian church. He was educated for the priesthood and ordained a Priest in the Roman Catholic Church. He was converted at our altars and has at times labored in our mission fields among his people. He is in full accord with our doctrines and policy. He is a man of good education, intelligence, zeal and devotion. He is constantly gaining the regard of the people and all departments of the church have taken on new life.

On the 10th day of June the 50th anniversary of St. Charles Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church was appropriately observed. Our esteemed resident Bishop deeply moved the large congregation assembled by his sermon from the words: "The Gospel came not in word only." Following the benediction, the doors of this historic old church were closed never to be opened again for religious services. On the evening of the same day the Bishop opened the new church, Napoleon Avenue, and a large enthusiastic congregation was present to take part in the dedication of this new church.

For fifty years continuous services were held in St. Charles Avenue Church. Faithful laymen have given of their time and means to this church, and loyal consecrated ministers have poured forth of their strength and life for its success, not least among them are: Harrison, Webb, Hervey, Hines, still honored members of this Conference. By the sale of St. Charles Avenue church and the purchase of

Napoleon Avenue church, a union of the St. Charles Avenue and Franklin Street churches was effected, which when fully consummated will result in a strong English Methodist Church and Protestant center in the city of New Orleans.

By the action of the Joint Commission of the Southern German Conference and the Gulf Conference, assembled in the City of New Orleans, October 5, 1917, the Napoleon Avenue Methodist Episcopal church was placed within the bounds of the Southern German Conference, but with the recorded unanimous vote of both commissions to favor and use their utmost endeavor in their respective Conferences to bring about, as soon as the necessary steps can be taken, the organic union of the two Conferences. The uniting of these Conferences together with the Swedish Mission, as contemplated, will be in every way favorable to this Conference. It will mean that we will no longer be counted among the small Conferences. The grades of charges will be advanced, and better care of Conference Claimants will be the result. Preliminary steps should be taken at this Conference session to speedily bring about the desired end. At this time of stress and trial the conviction has come to me that as Methodist preachers and laymen, we should give ourselves to every good word and work as never before.

Should we not, especially in this Conference, under the leadership of our Bishop, institute a vigorous drive for:

1. Larger support of our Conference Claimants, doing our part toward the raising of the \$20,000,000 Connectional Fund.

2. A better and more consecrated Ministry.

3. Increased membership and the improvement of church property, which will mean better charges and a better support of the Gospel.

4. An increase of Benevolences, particularly for Home and Foreign Missions, putting ourselves more fully in harmony with the spirit of the general church, as expressed in the battle cry of Christendom, "Christ for the whole world and the whole world for Christ."

F. W. LOY, Superintendent.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

Bishop Thirkield, and members of the Gulf Conference. It is with much pleasure that we again come to present the annual report of the Southern District. And first we wish to give praise to our Heavenly Father, for His goodness in preserving us in soul and body, as we have gone up and down the District.

The year in many respects has been a hard one; but it has also been a good year. The many claims and demands, because of the strenuous times, have been insistent upon our pastors and our people. Many of our boys have been called to the colors. And everywhere we have been reminded that a day like this the world never knew before. But we are here today, and not discouraged.

I am glad to report that while there has been nothing of the spectacular, yet the work of the District has gone forward and we have made good progress along many lines of the work.

Good revivals have been conducted in most all the churches, resulting in the salvation of many souls. There have also been a goodly number of additions to the church, and I think we will easily go beyond the ten per cent gain aimed at.

The District as it now stands is composed of seventeen pastoral charges. To each of these at the last session of the Conference, Bishop Shepard assigned a pastor. Every man without a single exception went to his post with greater enthusiasm and with a greater determination to do things for the Lord and Master, in a larger way, if possible, than ever before. Every man has remained at his post throughout the year. This I think is the first time during my superintendency that there has not been one or more changes in pastors during the year. Each pastor I hope will be in attendance at this session to give an account of the work that he has at least tried to do. I wish now to refer briefly to the charges.

Bayou Chine. This has come to be one of the historic charges of the Conference. As all have come to know, it is situated on the waters of the Atchafalaya River. It is about

seventy-five miles in length and as wide as one will make it by following the contributing Bayous. It is workable only by boat, such a thing as a horse and buggy not being known to many of the people.

The work is purely missionary, and will probably never be anything else. The membership of the charge is approximately two hundred. Two church buildings, two Sunday Schools, a good Epworth League, and a Junior League. Rev. W. R. Newton is and has been the devoted pastor for the past six and a half years.

Crowley. We have at Crowley, a good church building, a good parsonage, well located, and without debt. We have a good Sunday School though small, a small but devoted membership. Rev. A. M. Wynne was assigned to Crowley at the last Conference. He has labored faithfully, and has the respect and confidence of all the people. He also won the heart of Miss Letha Foster and succeeded in persuading her to become Mrs. A. M. Wynne. They were united in marriage at the home of the District Superintendent, Oct. the 25th. I think Bro. Wynne will report all claims for Ministerial support paid in full and a good part, if not all claims for benevolences paid.

DeRidder. It would be impossible for me to make anything like an accurate report of this work in the time and space here given me. The pastor, Rev. P. E. Vaughan, has labored faithfully and has earnestly and honestly endeavored to lead the people of DeRidder to success. I believe success is possible at DeRidder, but not until we put on a large programme, and that will mean a large expenditure of money.

DeQuincy. This is almost exclusively a railroad town, and because of this, feels very keenly the slightest disturbance in railroad circles. You can imagine what this has meant in the last few months. There is a nervous uncertainty. The people come and go. But notwithstanding this, we have made progress. The Sunday School has done the best work it has ever done and I think we also have a more loyal membership. We have a church and parsonage without debt, but neither one is adequate. A modern church properly located, is one of our greatest needs at DeQuincy.

The pastor, Rev. F. J. Ensign, has done faithful and earnest work.

Dry Prong. This is a four point charge, and is situated in a section where missionary work is greatly needed. We have two church buildings on the charge, two Sunday Schools that run the year round. They are doing good work. Bro. M. A. Farr has been the pastor of this charge for two years. One new class was organized during the year. One of the greatest needs of the work is two new churches.

Ebenezer will send up the best report they have ever had. It was thought best at the last Conference to put on a larger programme at Ebenezer and Rev. R. L. Weldon volunteered to take the work. The result is a better report on ministerial support, on benevolence, and the work better organized in all its departments. We have a good Sunday School, Epworth League and Junior League. A good church and nice parsonage, comparatively new, and all out of debt. Brother Weldon has done good work at Ebenezer.

Elton and Raymond. At the close of last year in counsel with all concerned, it was thought best to discontinue services at Elton for the time being, and accordingly we have not held any services there this year. We have a good church building there and I think in time will have a good strong organization.

The charge as it has been served this year consists of two appointments, viz: Raymond and China. This is in some respects one of the nicest charges in the Conference. It is situated in one of the most prosperous farming sections in the country. The field is all ours, the people are loyal and progressive. We have two good Sunday Schools and an Epworth League has been organized during the year. Bro. Ellis, the pastor, and who is much loved by his people, will present a report showing all financial claims up in full. We have two houses of worship, including the one at Elton, a nice parsonage, and the people will buy the pastor a nice new Ford car, if the Bishop will return him.

French Mission and Sweet Lake. This work is also situated in a good farming section and surrounded by a mixed population of French and English. The land is being

sold and settled up, which gives us one of our very best opportunities. This work is situated in the upper edge of Cameron Parish, and is the only parish where there is any preaching at all. Plans are under way to build a church during the coming year. Rev. W. B. Hebert has supplied this work for several years.

Plans should be made for more definite and extensive work in the French sections of Louisiana. The time is ripe for the preaching of the gospel to these needy people.

Gueydan. Supplied by Rev. S. H. Yockey. This point is so situated that it is hard to give adequate pastoral attention. The people are not able to support a pastor alone, and we have nothing near that we can place with it. Bro. Yockey lives at Iowa, which is nearly forty miles away. Railroad connections are very poor, which makes it a very difficult work to serve. We have a good little church without debt, and a parsonage with a small debt. We have a good Sunday School and the growth and development of the work is quite possible with proper adjustment.

Hico. This point is in the extreme northern part of the State of Louisiana, and is among a purely Southern people. The work was organized by one of our local preachers, Rev. Q. L. Bennett, who has supplied the work as pastor ever since. We have a good Sunday School and a good church property out of debt. They are waiting for the Bishop to come and dedicate the church.

Last summer at the close of a revival meeting conducted there by Bro. Perkins and myself, I took thirty into the church, baptized twenty adults and sixteen children.

Iowa. Rev. S. H. Yockey is the pastor of this charge which consists of two points, Iowa and Woodlawn. Woodlawn being an afternoon appointment. We have a good little church and parsonage at Iowa, without debt. Ours is the only church in the town and the country surrounding is a prosperous farming section. Bro. Yockey I am sure will bring a good report.

Jennings. Jennings is one of our best stations, but has suffered much in the last few years by the frequent change of pastors. At the last session of the Conference Bishop Shepard assigned Rev. T. E. Webb to this point. He has

given a year of hard and faithful service and there has been a good response to his efforts.

We have a good Sunday School, a nice parsonage and a good framed church. What we need at Jennings is a nice modern brick building, and this I hope will be launched in the very near future. The church could not do better than to place some of its money there.

Kinder and Basile. These towns are situated on the Frisco Railway. Kinder also being on the Iron Mountain Railway. We have the only protestant church in Basile, and the only Methodist church in Kinder. We have two splendid Sunday Schools, two nice church buildings and a good parsonage. Rev. E. N. Hardin the pastor, will present a report showing all financial obligations of the charge met.

Marthaville. This is a five point circuit and has been supplied this year by one of our local preachers, Rev. L. B. Boicourt. The charge is situated in north central Louisiana, and is among Southern people entirely. We have three church buildings on the charge, and a half interest in one. Plans were made at the session of the fourth Quarterly Conference, looking to the building of a parsonage. There will be one church on this charge to dedicate another year. Bro. Boicourt has been faithful in the discharge of his duties as pastor.

Lake Charles. At Lake Charles we have a good Sunday School, well organized in all its departments, doing splendid work, a splendid Epworth League. Bro. Hines the pastor, is now closing his tenth year as pastor of this church. When he was first assigned to this work as pastor, it paid four hundred dollars salary, without house. It now pays fourteen hundred, and a good parsonage. In addition to being pastor of this church for ten years, he was also district superintendent, for something like three years, making thirteen years of service to the church.

Because of health conditions, Bro. Hines is now asking the Conference for a year's vacation. This I am sure they will not hesitate to grant.

Port Arthur. We have had a good year at Port Arthur. Our splendid plant there has enabled us to go over

the top. The Sunday School is well organized and doing good work. The Epworth League, I suppose the largest in the district, and I expect the largest in the Conference, is also doing splendid work.

Again Mrs. Gates comes to the assistance of our church at Port Arthur. This time she donates a fine corner lot on Procter street at a cost of twenty-two hundred dollars. The ladies of the church are erecting a pastors' home on this, that is to be modern in every sense, at an approximate cost of four thousand dollars. The plan is to have it ready for occupancy in the early part of the new Conference year. Rev. O. B. Morris, the pastor, has been faithful and untiring in his labors.

Welsh. Last, but not least among the charges. The people and the pastor, Rev. James W. Hervey, have had a good year. Welsh has one of the best Sunday Schools in the Conference, doing thorough and good work. A good Epworth League and Junior League. At the 4th Quarterly Conference the other night, the trustees reported paid on church indebtedness, \$2384, which leaves our splendid church and parsonage without debt. The pastor will report all claims for ministerial support, and also for benevolences paid in full.

Port Arthur College. Without question, Port Arthur College is having the very best year of its existence, or at least since it has been the property of our church. As I stood before the student body in chapel service a few mornings ago, it sent a thrill through me, as I looked into their eager faces and thought of the fine work the school was doing.

It seems to me, that so far as the success of the school is concerned, we are now going over the top. Much credit is due the President, Arthur J. Price, for the success the school is now having. I leave the details of the work to be reported by him.

It does not seem possible that six years have passed, since I was first assigned to district work, but it is true. A I look back over these years, I can but ask myself the question, have you done your best? I can only say, I have tried. Such has been my aim and desire.

The boundaries of the district has changed so often till I find it impossible to give any comparative statement of the work done during my administration. But we have done what we could, and we leave the result with the Lord.

To my Brethren. Brothers I wish to thank you for your kindly co-operation. You have been thoughtful and considerate. Our work has been without friction; if I have had any success, it has been your co-operation that has helped to make it so. I shall ever remember you, and shall pray for your success.

Respectfully submitted,
J. A. CARRUTH.

TEXAS DISTRICT.

Dear Bishop and Brethren:

The report from the Texas District has nothing of the sensational in it. It does, however, show evidence of the presence of God.

We have experienced some changes in Pastoral oversight. Within a few days after Conference we learned that the appointee to La Porte would not take charge, after much writing and wiring Bishop Shepard, with the concurrence of the District Superintendent of the New Orleans District, re-appointed Rev. W. I. Gates, thereby leaving Loranger to be supplied. At the first Quarterly Conference of the Noonday and Harleton charge it was thought wise to make temporary changes and for the year use two men on the charge. Rev. T. H. Fletcher, who was appointed a supply has served two of the original appointments of the charge and developed two others, while Rev. J. M. Black, one of our active local preachers has served the rest of the work. At the request of Rev. T. J. Shrode, pastor at Houston Heights for two years, he was re-appointed to that charge to serve until June 1st, at which time he contemplated going to the western coast, and through the recommendation of our President, Bishop Thirkield, arrangements were made with Rev. W. H. Germany, then a student in our Boston School of Theology, to succeed to this charge and so far as Houston Heights is concerned the plan carried, but instead of our Brother Shrode

going West, he went East and was apponited to our work at Loranger, La., where we understand he has enjoyed a delightful pastorage. In September we lost the Pastor, Rev. F. M. Simpson, by transfer, and since then Texas City has had only such service as the District Superintendent could give it.

During the year we have lost by transfer, as just indicated, Rev. F. M. Simpson, and have gained by transfer Rev. Phillip Deschner, who has been placed in charge of William's Chapel in San Antonio. By this transfer and appointment, Bishop Thirkield and the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension indicate their purpose to do all that they can to adequately provide for the religious and moral needs of our soldiers in and around Fort Sam Houston.

With approximately 200,000 soldiers in training within the bounds of our District, who are here today, on the high seas tomorrow and next week in the trenches in Europe, and many of whom we reasonably expect to meet their death within a fortnight and then the JUDGMENT; your District Superintendent, the Pastor of Trinity Church, San Antonio, Dr. Leonard, the Pastor of Houston Heights, Bro. Germany, and the Pastor at South Houston, Bro. Ransom, have been brought to appreciate as perhaps never before the necessity of "putting first things first," and have therefore kept constantly invested our every talent that we might, by the grace of God make them "meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints of light." By special meetings, social gatherings, private entertainment in the homes and private personal interviews these pastors and their people are accomplishing much good.

As a result of the untiring efforts of the pastors and much sacrifice on the part of their constituency very substantial material improvements have been made during the year. The Alvin Parsonage is better by about \$125.00, a screened-in porch, a study for the Pastor, new paint on the inside woodwork and new paper on the walls, electric wiring and equipment add greatly to the comfort and pleasure of the Pastor, while screens on the church add much to the comfort of the congregations.

The Marshall Parsonage has received needed attention

and the church windows have been repaired at considerable cost. At Pearland, the parsonage has been almost finished at a cost of about \$100.00 and the wreckage of the old church which was totally destroyed in the 1915 storm has been cleared away and what material that could be used was saved and with it new material was used to build a neat bungalow church which was finished and dedicated early in the year. On this enterprise one thousand dollars was spent, it is free of debt.

At South Houston about four hundred dollars has been invested in re-papering and finishing the church which was greatly damaged by the 1915 storm. This church has also been re-painted on the outside.

The Ladies Aid building at Lyford, the building in which all Sunday school and church services are held, has been moved onto our church lots and enlarged at an expense of something over two hundred dollars.

Very much needed improvements have been made on both of our San Antonio properties, thus providing for the social and religious demands of the military citizenship of the city. Most of these improvements were made at the expense of the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension through appropriations made from the special fund raised for such purposes.

Our Houston Heights property has increased in value by about \$100.00.

The newest church we have on the District is the work of five and one-half days of labor. At Strickland, a station on the railroad between Hemphill and Bronson, within the bounds of the Sabine Charge, the people lead by their pastor, Bro. C. A. Perkins, broke ground and begun work on a new bungalow church on Monday morning and at noon Saturday, the carpeters climbed down off the roof of an enclosed building and the D. S. held the first service in it on October 21st. To date about \$600.00 has been invested in the enterprise.

Our newest parsonage is of November birth. At Midway, in Polk county, work was begun on a new five-room frame parsonage; 12 acres of land has been secured as a "building sight." It is the purpose of the people to beautify

and make profitable this tract. This will supply a great need in this promising rural field.

Within closer range than any of these is the work done on the Hughes Springs and Winnsboro Charge. At Morris Grove we now have a neat new church building, worth about \$1,200, situated on the cross roads in a thickly settled community of aggressive farmers. Our future here is bright.

This building within which we gather for our Annual Conference session speaks words of praise for the Pastor and his people that are much stronger than any that I might make use of. Only those who know what we had here a year ago can appreciate what we have today, and only those who know the pastor as a mechanic, as well as a preacher, can understand how such changes can be wrought. This enterprise represents an outlay of at least \$1,300, and under less efficient leadership would have cost a third more at least.

Parsonage debt paying has been the order of the year and as a result the debt on the Houston Heights and Patroon properties have been reduced and those on the Alvin, Atlanta and La Porte parsonages have been paid in full. About \$1,000.00 has been thus applied.

On sixteen of the twenty-one charges of the District we have had very profitable revivals and the churches strengthened thereby. In some instances our pastors have not fully realized the goal fixed by them in response to Bishop Shepard's call last Conference, but all along the line splendid work has been done.

The District Superintendent has constantly urged the Trustees on the district to insure and keep insured all properties under their control, with the result that many have insured, yet we have many that are not, and we are the losers because of this fact; about two weeks ago we lost by fire our parsonage at Harleton which was not insured and in this we lost enough to pay for a year's insurance on every piece of property on the district.

During the year, our President, Bishop Thirkield has made three visits to our district inquiring carefully into the details of our work and giving most helpful counsel.

We have been called upon to "weep with those who

weep," for we have had the death angel visit some of our homes.

On Dec. 13th in Upland, Ind., Brother O. E. Holmes, father of our Brother Guy W. Holmes, and a worthy member of our Indiana Methodism went to his reward.

On March 8th Mrs. Mary Ellen Minter, wife of J. C. and mother of our Brother K. C. Minter, fell asleep. It was in Sister Minter's home that the Methodist Episcopal Church in Woodville was organized, and she was member of the first M. E. Church organized in Tyler Co.

It was early in the year that Rev. J. M. Black and wife were called on to give up their son, Murrah T.

While Brother and Sister C. A. Perkins were visiting their parents in North Texas little Harry Clement became violently sick, and on June 3rd, went home.

On Sept. 8th, little Willie Richardson, the three year old daughter of Rev. Chas. Richardson and wife of Ore City, and the charm of the parsonage "was not, for God took her."

During the year several of our parsonages have housed the sick, Sisters Fletcher, Harper and Pynes have each suffered greatly, and Rev. W. I. Gates very narrowly escaped death in an accident. On June 19th, he was on his way to an appointment at Morgan's Point, when the automobile in which he was riding was struck by a south bound Southern Pacific passenger train at Sylvan Beach crossing and he was thrown violently through the side of the car and onto the ground several yards away. For some time his life was despaired of. He is a permanent cripple, sad as it is, he will not take an appointment at this session of Conference, and it is not probable that he will ever serve another pastorate.

Through the entire year and without a single exception the most cordial relations have existed between the District Superintendent and the pastors and their people. They seem not to have been satisfied to provide for and give their best to the D. S. The unexpected and delightful surprise of having the wife of the District Superintendent a visitor at this session of the Conference, the guest of these noble men and women, who have generously provided for the expenses, emphasizes in a new and greatly appreciated way their cordiality.

Statistical reports will show that there has been a substantial gain in almost every item of our work, yet the ideal has not been reached. At least one of our Advocates and a Methodist Year Book should be in every Methodist home. More of our young people should be in Port Arthur College or some other of our Methodist schools. A class in which to train our young people for leadership should be organized in every church. The New Financial Plan should be adopted and worked in every charge. A decided advance in ministerial support is necessary. Better and more attractive houses of worship are greatly needed in many places, and in some localities the service of the pastor would be worth one hundred per cent more to the church if the property of the church had two good coats of paint on both the inside and out.

The year has been one of great profit, yet every pastor feels that under the leadership of God the next must yield much larger returns.

Respectfully,

L. E. GOWER, District Superintendent.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

There are many and various needs upon the church in these perilous war times. And there are many evil tendencies to be averted which we believe can best be met by Bible truth. Our church has been a co-worker with, and supporter of the American Bible Society since 1836. Our last General Conference recommended that our contributions to the society be increased from forty thousand to one hundred thousand dollars a year. The demand for Bibles is greater than the supply.

We, therefore, urge all our preachers to make a special effort to increase the contributions from their churches for this eminently worthy cause.

J. WOODSON,
E. N. HARDIN,
R. R. ELLIS.

STATE OF THE CHURCH.

We note with gratitude to Almighty God the advance of

our church along all fronts as we see the mighty progress she is putting on. Along the line of Missions, Home and Foreign, the Temperance question, the Sunday School work and the cause of Education. These are some of the evidences of deep spiritual awakening among us.

We feel that the call to arms has been sounded and that we are marching on with stately tread at the command of our Lord and Master to do our part of the world's work.

As we listen to the note of optimism in the reports of most of the brethren, we are made to feel that the Gulf Conference is beginning to catch the vision and we expect greater things in the immediate future.

C. A. PERKINS.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Seeing that the day has come when irreverence for the Sabbath is making inroads upon our people, and that there is a growing tendency with many of them to disregard the sacredness of this Holy Day, therefore,

Be it resolved, that all our preachers by precept and example, discourage all unnecessary work, worldly pleasure, and spiritual idleness upon this day, and that we encourage reverence for and spiritual activity on this heaven appointed day of worship.

G. L. HARPER,
P. E. VAUGHAN.

EPWORTH LEAGUE.

Realizing that our church must have trained leadership, as well as wholesome and innocent amusement for our young people, the Epworth League was created to meet this need. Therefore, we urge our pastors to encourage and maintain, wherever practicable Epworth League Chapters.

We also commend the Epworth Herald to every Epworthian within the bounds of the Gulf Conference.

Respectfully submitted by your committee,

R. T. PYNES,
R. L. WELDON.

MEMOIRS.

Your committee is glad to report that under the good Providence of God, we have had no deaths among our brethren this year.

We might mention, however, that during the year death has come very close to some of our preachers by taking loved ones from their families. Brothers Perkins and Richardson have each lost a child this year. The mother of Brother Minter went to her crowning early in the year. Brother Holmes' father passed away a year ago. To all these brethren we extend a heart and hand of sympathy and a prayer for the comfort and healing of Jesus' continual presence with them.

J. W. LIVELY,
N. L. SAYERS.

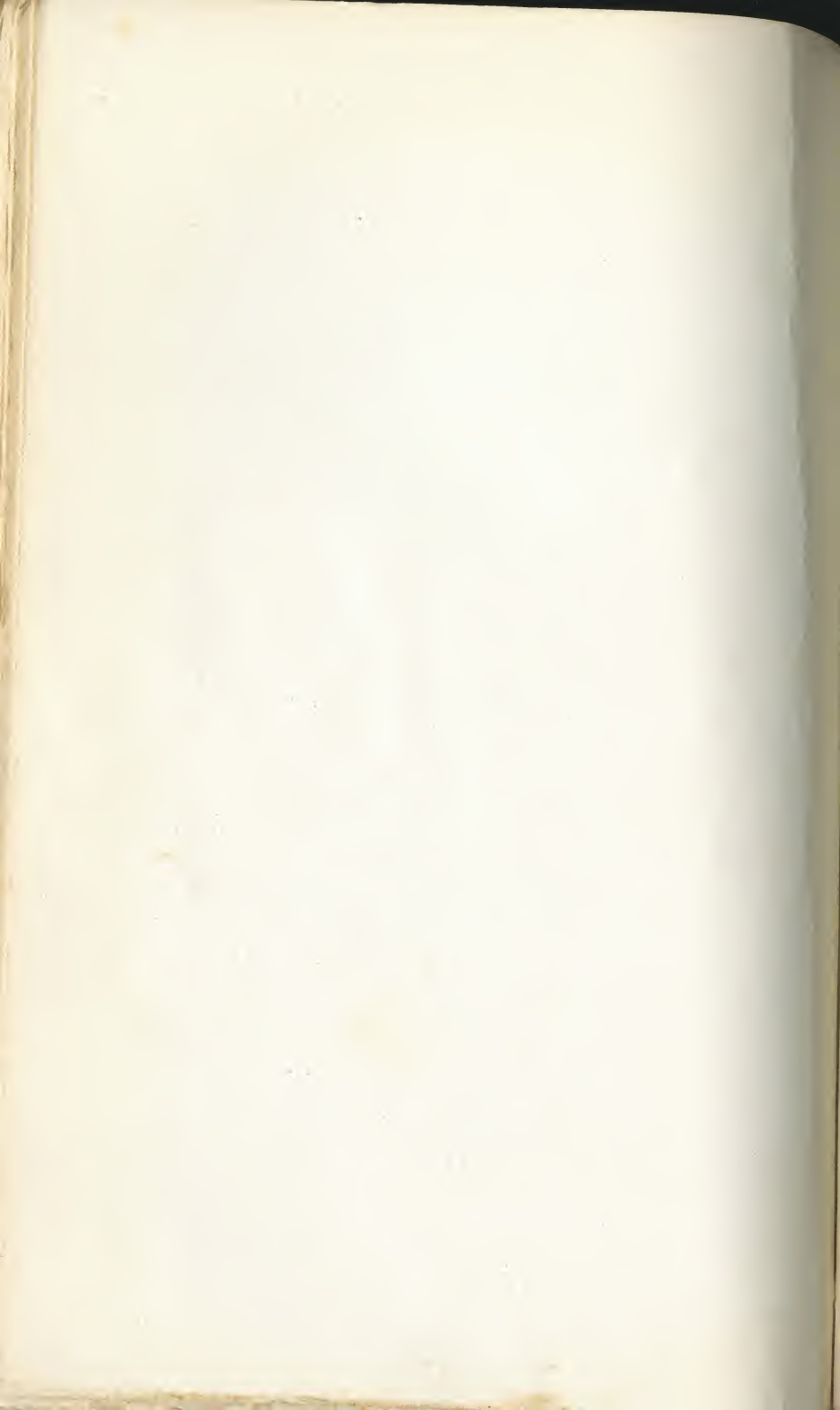
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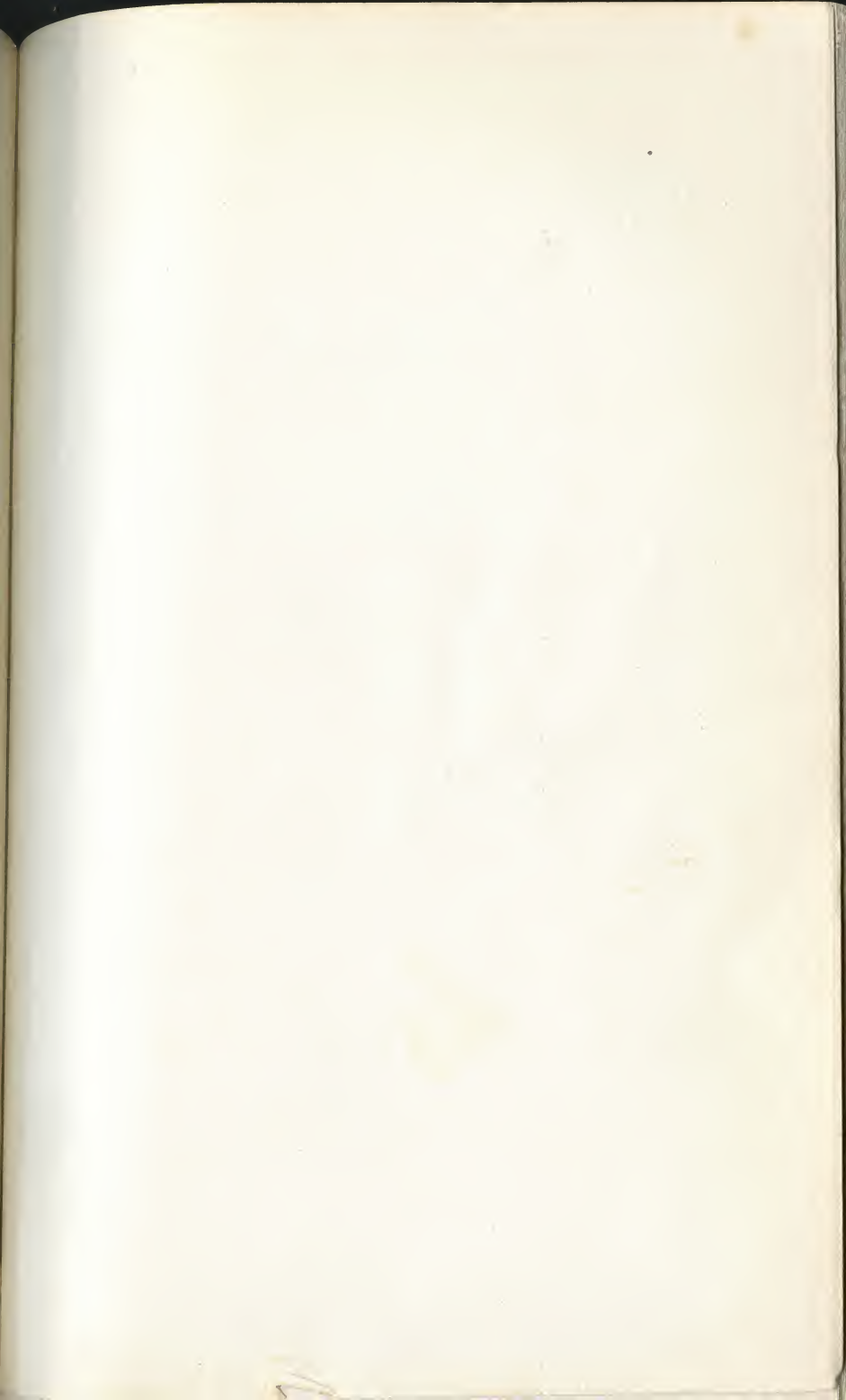
The overthrow of the liquor traffic always an urgent reform in normal times, now in the midst of war becomes paramount, and indispensable to the nation's welfare. None but mad men would waste food, debauch labor, hinder shipping, corrupt government, and betray the army at such a time as this. We count the saloon among the most dangerous foes of our democracy, the brewer who wastes the people's food, an ally of the Kaiser.

The immediate destruction of the liquor traffic is therefore a patriotic duty. We implore the President of the United States to exercise the power vested in him to give us absolute prohibition during the war. Sixty per cent of the American people have outlawed the saloon in eighty per cent of the territory of the United States. A reactionary legislature or other governing body has kept many other communities from dealing a death blow to the liquor business.

We urge the House of Representatives on assembling this month to immediately pass the bill for national prohibition by giving the people a chance to amend the constitution.

We demand the protection of our young men in training camps by the prohibition of the sale of liquor and vice





cessfully begun the work of caring for Methodist students at State institutions according to the plan approved by the General Conference of 1916.

5. Through its function of Counselor and Administrator of University Senate legislation the Board of Education helps to maintain high standards of scholastic work in our Church institutions. It serves as a general clearing house of educational information and inspiration for the entire church, publishes reports and significant articles in the Church papers, quarterly magazine, *The Christian Student*, and annual program for Children's Day, and an extensive leaflet literature. We urge that all this literature be used by every charge.

6. Your Committee recommends that this Annual Conference pledge renewed co-operation and loyal support to our Board of Education.

7. We recommend that the Conference appreciate the heroic and self-sacrificing efforts of President Price and his loyal corps of teachers, not in words only, but in deeds also. We recommend that every pastor encourage his young people in securing a higher education.

8. We submit for the approval of the Conference, the following names as Trustees of Port Arthur College to serve three years: J. W. Hervey, O. B. Morris, G. B. Hines, Bishop W. P. Thirkield, S. Arthur Knapp and J. P. Mann.

Adopted by the Conference December 1, 1917.

HAUGHTON K. FAULK, Chm.
A. J. PRICE,
T. E. WEBB,
H. C. LEONARD,
GEO. L. HARPER.

CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS PERMANENT FUND COMMISSION.

Southern District—T. J. Shrode, O. B. Morris, J. A. Carruth, N. L. Sayers, E. C. Willard.

Texas District—R. T. Pynes, F. J. Ensign, W. H. Germany, H. C. Leonard, Dr. J. W. Vogan. The District Superintendents are Ex-officio members.